

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION NATO

CINCEUR

USDOCOSOUTH

USDOCOLANDSOUTHEAST

USNMR SHAPE

CINCUSNAVEUR

CINCUSAFE-IN

CINCUSAFE-INCFR

HQ USEUCOM

CINCUSAREUR

COMSIXTHFLT

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SUBJECT: THE AEGEAN DISPUTE, THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF
JUSTICE (ICJ) AND TURKISH DOMESTIC POLITICS

REF: ANKARA 6588 (DTG 261355Z AUG 76)

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1. THE MFA INFORMATION OFFICE RELEASED THE FOLLOWING

STATEMENT TO THE PRESS AUGUST 26:

EGIN QUOTE

THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT TODAY UNOFFICIALLY CONVEYED TO THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE HER VIEWS WITH REGARD TO THE APPLICATION MADE BY THE GREEK GOVERNMENT FOR "INTERIM MEASURES" AGAINST MTA SISMİK I VESSEL'S SURVEYS IN THE AEGEAN.

THE PRESENTATION OF THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT'S OBSERVATIONS DOES NOT ENTAIL ANY COMMITMENT ON THE PART OF TURKEY, BUT IT IS IN CONFORMITY WITH THE TRADITIONS OF THE COURT. AS IS KNOWN, SINCE TURKEY DOES NOT ACCEPT THE COMPULSORY JURISDICTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE, SHE IS OF THE OPINION THAT THE COURT IS NOT COMPETENT TO DEAL WITH THE CASES FILED BY GREECE ON THE AEGEAN CONTINENTAL SHELF. END QUOTE.

2. REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY (RPP) DEPUTY SECGEN HASAN ESAT ISKIK, WHO ADVISES RPP CHAIRMAN ECEVIT ON FOREIGN POLICY MATTERS, WAS QUOTED IN THE PRESS AUGUST 27 AS SAYING THAT FONMIN CAGLAYANGIL HAD PROPERLY INTERPRETED THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION BY POINTING OUT THAT THE DEMARCATION OF THE CONTINENTAL SHELF WAS A POLITICAL QUESTION AND NOT ONE THAT THE ICJ COULD SOLVE. ISIK CRITICIZED THE GOVERNMENT, HOWEVER, FOR HAVING AGREED TO RESUME BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE GREEKS WITHOUT DEMANDING THAT THE GOG WITHDRAW ITS UNILATERAL APPLICATION TO THE ICJ. HE ALSO ADMONISHED THE GOVERNMENT NOT TO COMPLY WITH THE SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION SIMPLY BECAUSE IT WAS A SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION.

3. MINISTER OF ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES KILIC DISCUSSED WITH THE PRESS AUGUST 26 THE CURRENT STATUS OF SISMİK WHICH IS IN IZMİR FOR UP-KEEP AND REPAIRS. KILIC SAID THAT AMONG OTHER THINGS SEVERAL TONS OF BALLAST WERE BEING PUT ABOARD THE SISMİK SO THAT IT MIGHT BE ABLE TO STAY AT SEA FOR A LONGER PERIOD OF TIME AND THEREBY POSSIBLY CONDUCT THE REMAINING STAGES OF ITS OPERATIONS IN ONE EXTENDED CRUISE. KILIC ALSO JOINED IN THE DEBATE CONCERNING THE ACTIVITIES OF THE ECEVIT

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GOVERNMENT WITH REGARD TO TURKISH RIGHTS ON THE AEGEAN CONTINENTAL SHELF. KILIC SAID THAT RPP CLAIMS THAT A MAP OF THE TURKISH CONTINENTAL SHELF HAD BEEN DRAWN DURING THE ECEVIT GOVERNMENT WERE NOT TRUE. HE SAID THE RPP WAS MAKING CLAIMS BECAUSE IT FEARED THAT THE DEMIREL GOVERNMENT WOULD GET CREDIT FOR THE PRESENT ACTIVITIES OF THE SISMİK.

4. NATIONAL SALVATION PARTY (NSP) CHAIRMAN AND DEPUTY PRIMIN ERBAKAN, WHO WAS ALSO DEPUTY PRIMIN DURING THE ECEVIT GOVERNMENT, HAS FOUND HIMSELF IN A DIFFICULT POSITION WITH RESPECT TO THE RELATIVE MERITS OF BOTH GOVERNMENTS' EFFORTS TO ASSERT TURKEY'S RIGHTS IN THE AEGEAN. ASKED BY REPORTERS ABOUT OPERATIONS OF THE CANDARLI (WHICH PRIMIN DEMIREL HAD CRITICIZED AS MEANINGLESS THE PREVIOUS DAY) ERBAKAN SAID THAT THE ECEVIT GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN VERY CAREFUL IN SAFEGUARDING TURKISH RIGHTS IN THE AEGEAN. HE SAID THE CANDARLI HAD BEEN SENT OUT IN THE AEGEAN TO PROSPECT FOR OIL AND IT HAD DONE SO. HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT ALL TURKISH GOVERNMENTS WERE METICULOUS IN THEIR ATTEMPTS TO SAFEGUARD TURKISH NATIONAL INTERESTS. LATER IN THE DAY, HE ATTEMPTED TO REMOVE HIMSELF FROM THE ARGUMENT BY TELLING REPORTERS THE MOST IMPORTANT ISSUE FOR THE TURKISH NATION AT THIS TIME IS NOT THE SISMİK, BUT THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT OF TURKEY. ERBAKAN MADE THESE STATEMENTS IN EASTERN TURKEY WHERE HE WAS LAYING THE CORNERSTONES FOR ALLEGED NEW INDUSTRIAL INSTALLATIONS. MACOMBER

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